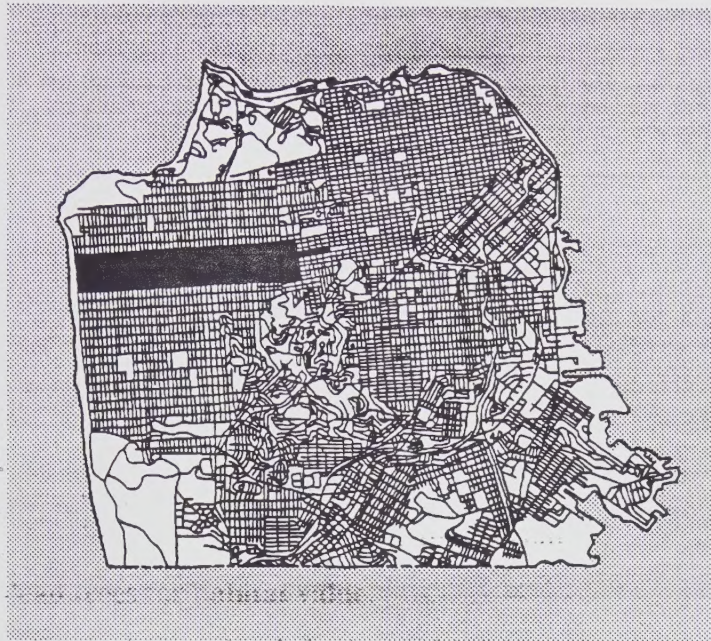


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# GOLDEN GATE PARK MASTER PLAN



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2. Preserve water quality and water levels in the park's lakes, marshes, and water features to preserve habitat value.
3. Designated areas within the park that have special resources or habitat values as natural resource areas. Natural resource areas should be managed to preserve and enhance the natural resource values. Control park uses in and near natural resource areas to preserve their values.

DRAFT

## *Golden Gate Park Objectives and Policies*

SAN FRANCISCO RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Prepared By:

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NOVEMBER 1993



# DRAFT

## Golden Gate Park Objectives and Policies

The following is a draft of the Objectives and Policies for the management of Golden Gate Park. It has been revised in a draft form several times and is based on the existing Objectives and Policies, which were adopted in 1979. There has been an extensive reorganization to improve the document's usability. The proposed changes are based on the comments received from the general public, the Task Force, and Recreation and Park Department staff.

The text shown in **bold** is the proposed new language and policies. All other text is from the existing Objectives and Policies (although not necessarily in the same location).

**Bold:** new text

normal: text remaining from the existing adopted Objectives and Policies (1979-85)

identifies significant revisions made from previous draft based on comments from Task Force and public.

### Table of Contents:

<b>GOLDEN GATE PARK MISSION STATEMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. LAND USE AND ACTIVITIES</b>	
A. Naturalistic Parkland	5
B. Major Meadows and Lawns	5
C. Major Recreation Areas	6
D. Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens	6
E. Indigenous Oak Preserves	6
F. Special Horticultural Areas	7
G. Music Concourse Area	7
H. Maintenance and Operations Areas	7
<b>II. LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION AND RENEWAL</b>	
A. Preserve the Design Integrity of Golden Gate Park	8
B. Preserve and Renew the Park's Forests	9
C. Wildlife and Habitat	10
D. Park Lakes and Water Features	10
E. Water Supply and Irrigation System	11
F. Sustainable Landscape Principles	11
G. Bison Paddock	11

<b>III.</b>	<b>PARK CIRCULATION</b>	
	A. Accessibility	12
	B. Pedestrian Circulation	12
	C. Bicycle Circulation	13
	D. Motor Vehicle Circulation	13
	E. Non-Park Traffic	14
	F. Removal of Park Roadways	14
	G. Weekend and Holiday Roadway Closures	14
	H. Park Shuttle System	14
	I. Public Transit	15
	J. Private Tour Vehicles	15
	K. Parking	15
	L. Traffic Safety	15
	M. Traffic Generators	16
<b>IV.</b>	<b>BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND MONUMENTS</b>	
	A. New Construction	17
	B. Historic structures	17
	C. Modification of Existing Buildings	17
	D. Removal of Buildings Not Needed for Park Uses	18
	E. Park Maintenance Structures	18
	F. Energy and Resource Conservation	18
<b>V.</b>	<b>RECREATIONAL USES AND FACILITIES</b>	
	A. Children's Recreation and Supervision	19
	B. Equestrian Facilities	19
	C. Off-Road Bicycle Use	19
	D. Roller Skating	19
<b>VI.</b>	<b>PARK MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY</b>	
	A. Landscape Design Oversight	20
	B. Park Amenities	20
	C. Visitor Information	20
	D. Signs	21
	E. Special Events	21
	F. Concessions	21
	G. Gifts and Donations	22
	H. Recycling	22
	I. Park Maintenance Vehicles	22
	J. Park Security	22
	K. Adjacent Urban Development	23
	L. Pets	23
<b>VII.</b>	<b>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PROCESS</b>	
	A. Park Policy and Planning Process	24
	B. Park Cooperative Association	24
	C. Volunteer Activities	24



# GOLDEN GATE PARK MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Golden Gate Park is to serve as an open space preserve in the midst of the San Francisco. This historic park is a cultivated pastoral and sylvan landscape, defined by an abundant evergreen woodland. It is designed and managed to afford opportunities for all to experience beauty, tranquillity, recreation, and relief from urban pressures.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

## OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

### GOLDEN GATE PARK MASTER PLAN

**THE PURPOSE OF THE OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES IS TO PRESERVE GOLDEN GATE PARK'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL, NATURAL, AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PARK VISITORS FROM SAN FRANCISCO, THE BAY REGION, AND ELSEWHERE. GOLDEN GATE PARK SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN CULTURAL RESOURCE.**

Golden Gate Park's **1,017** acres have provided areas of pastoral and sylvan retreat and places for active recreation since 1872. **As they have throughout the park's history**, local residents and regional visitors **alike** take pleasure in Golden Gate Park. Its reputation is international.

Golden Gate Park is under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission which is concerned with the future well-being of the park. The Objectives and Policies for Golden Gate Park are intended to establish guidelines for preservation, use and development of the park by a process that includes planning staff, expert advisors, and community involvement. **The park was built from an original plan by William Hammond Hall. The park continues to evolve, responding with changes in our society. Respect for the original design intent will enable future generations to receive as great a living legacy as we have inherited.**

William Hammond Hall, foresaw the park in two different regions. The park land east of Strawberry Hill includes a variety of intensively cultivated areas and developed facilities while the park land to the west is a pastoral and woodland landscape with open meadows defined by stands of trees and enhanced by lakes.

John McLaren, providing continuity of leadership as the park's superintendent for fifty-six years, brought the park's development to fruition. An experienced horticulturist and forester, McLaren devoted his energies toward the development and protection of an abundant evergreen woodland, establishing the park's characteristic landscape as we experience it today.

It is expected that the Golden Gate Park **Master Plan** will retain the integrity of the original design, yet will have sufficient flexibility to accommodate society's evolving needs.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **OBJECTIVE I LAND USE AND ACTIVITIES**

**Ensure that land uses and activities in Golden Gate Park contribute to the mission and purpose of the park. The activities within a designated land use zone should be appropriate to the land use purpose.**

### **OBJECTIVE II LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION AND RENEWAL**

**Provide for the protection and renewal of the park landscape.**

### **OBJECTIVE III PARK CIRCULATION**

**Create and maintain a parkwide system of recreational roadways, pathways, and trails. Minimize motor vehicular traffic.**

### **OBJECTIVE IV BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND MONUMENTS**

**Minimize the impacts of buildings and structures and preserve the open space of Golden Gate Park. Maintain and preserve historic buildings and structures.**

### **OBJECTIVE V RECREATIONAL USES AND FACILITIES**

**Ensure that recreational uses of Golden Gate Park are appropriate to the park environment and experience.**

### **OBJECTIVE VI PARK MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY**

**Ensure that park management implements adopted policy, preserves the park's resources, and operates and maintains the park efficiently.**

### **OBJECTIVE VII COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PROCESS**

**Foster community participation in guiding the future of Golden Gate Park.**



## **OBJECTIVE I - LAND USE AND ACTIVITIES**

**ENSURE THAT LAND USES AND ACTIVITIES IN GOLDEN GATE PARK CONTRIBUTE TO THE MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE PARK. THE ACTIVITIES WITHIN A DESIGNATED LAND USE ZONE SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO THE LAND USE PURPOSE.**

The land use portion of the Objectives and Policies has two primary goals: to identify appropriate land uses within the park and to identify what uses and activities are appropriate within each land use zone. The major land use zones are identified on the park Land Use Map. The map also identifies non-conforming uses and vehicle circulation and parking areas (which are addressed in Objective III). The land use designations are intended to preserve the design intent and address current needs. Each zone has a distinct character and purpose. The land use zones encompass the park's general landscape types. Ancillary uses, such as play areas, may be located within several zones, such as major meadows and lawns and naturalistic parkland.

Agreements, permits, concessions, and leases should meet a standard of appropriateness, in accordance with the City Charter (Section 7.403) that stipulates that all permits and leases shall be issued only for recreational purposes.

Areas or facilities in Golden Gate Park that are not serving an essential recreational, cultural, or operations/maintenance purpose, should be declared a non-conforming use and studied for the feasibility of removal and relocation outside of Golden Gate Park. Determinations of non-conforming uses should include consideration of the provisions of the City Charter (Section 7.403) and the Recreation and Open Space Element of the City's Master Plan (policies discussing non-recreational uses). Where uses or facilities are being removed, a special area study should be conducted to determine the best park use of the site.

### **POLICY A - NATURALISTIC PARKLAND**

Naturalistic parkland comprises the largest land category in Golden Gate Park, and must be preserved to protect the pastoral character of the park and to ensure the retention of park open space. Naturalistic parkland is the predominant landscape of the park and gives the park its visual character.

1. Areas designated as "Naturalistic Parkland" include the park's woodlands, most of the scenic lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, and wildlife habitats.
2. Recreational use of areas designated as "Naturalistic Parkland" should emphasize and encourage appreciation of the park's pastoral qualities. Appropriate activities would include nature walks, bird watching, photography, and educational pursuits.

### **POLICY B - MAJOR MEADOWS AND LAWNS**

Major meadow and lawns comprise the large open spaces within the park and host both passive and active recreational uses. The vistas that they create, and the relationship between these open spaces and the park's woodlands and buildings should be preserved.

1. The open spaces of meadows and lawns should be preserved, with no encroachment by woodlands or structures.



2. Major meadows and lawns should be adaptable to host a wide variety of activities, rather than designed for a specific use.
3. Appropriate uses for major meadows and lawns include picnicking, sunbathing, informal lawn sports, other unstructured recreation, public assembly and other events as defined in the Commission's Permit and Reservation Policy.

#### **POLICY C - MAJOR RECREATION AREAS**

The major recreation areas within Golden Gate Park have been established to meet specific recreational needs. The land within major recreation areas is programmed or designed for specific types of recreation or sports.

1. Major recreation areas are designed and maintained for specific, structured and programmed recreational uses and include designated turf areas, courts, and water bodies, and are subject to permit reservations.
2. Major recreation areas host activities such as archery, soccer, baseball, football, polo, golf, fly casting (at the fly casting pools), track, lawn bowling, tennis, model boating (at Spreckels Lake) and others in areas identified on the Land Use Map. Visitor centers, restrooms and other support services may be included in recreation areas.
3. Kezar Stadium's primary function is that of a youth serving sports facility. Its use is governed by the Kezar Stadium operations policy adopted by the Recreation and Park Commission.

#### **POLICY D - STRYBING ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**

The horticultural jewel of Golden Gate Park is Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The arboretum is a world class facility and should be preserved and further developed in accordance with its historical function as a living museum of plants within the park. Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Garden's function is threefold:

1. To collect plants from around the world that are climatically suited to the central coastal region of California and the Bay Area with an emphasis upon their horticultural, ecological, and botanical value.
2. To provide educational and interpretive programs that promote the broadest public awareness of plants and the environment with particular emphasis on geography, ecology, plant preservation, conservation, and human uses.
3. To provide, in an aesthetically pleasing landscaped setting, a place for reflection, enjoyment, and relaxation for the public.

#### **POLICY E - INDIGENOUS OAK PRESERVES**

Existing major indigenous oak woodlands in the park should be designated as indigenous oak preserves. Manage the preserves to ensure their continued existence and to recognize the historical and ecological importance of the oak woodlands.

1. Areas identified as indigenous oak preserves on the land use map include forest areas that are composed predominantly of oaks and other oak woodland plant community species.



2. Manage the oak woodlands to preserve their existence by planting acorns, oak seedlings, and other oak woodland plant community species.
3. Uses within this zone must be compatible with the management goals of maintaining and preserving the oak woodlands.
4. Incorporate the significance of the oak woodlands in park interpretive programs.

#### **POLICY F - SPECIAL HORTICULTURAL AREAS**

Park horticultural gardens and formally landscaped areas provide the contrast and picturesque qualities essential to complete the park experience. These areas are characterized by seasonal plantings of flowers, perennial flowering plants, unique and interesting plant collections, formal or distinctive designs, and generally require more intensive maintenance than other areas. The historic location and traditional horticultural usage of these features should be maintained and protected from encroachment.

1. Special horticultural areas in Golden Gate Park include the Conservatory and its gardens, the Japanese Tea Garden, the Rose Garden, the Rhododendron Dell, the Fuchsia Dell, the tree ferns groves and others as identified on the Land Use Map.

#### **POLICY G - MUSIC CONCOURSE AREA**

The Music Concourse and the institutions around it, including the Academy of Sciences, the deYoung Museum, and the Asian Art Museum, are important elements that fit within the overall park landscape and contribute to the park's unique character and history.

1. The Music Concourse is a unique and distinctive civic space within the park that provides an appropriate setting for cultural activities and institutions.
2. The California Academy of Sciences, the M.H. deYoung Memorial Museum, and the Asian Art Museum, which contribute to the cultural focus of the Music Concourse area, have an historic and on-going role in Golden Gate Park that should continue and be supported.

#### **POLICY H - MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS AREAS**

Maintenance and operations areas are necessary within the park to facilitate management, maintenance and preservation of Golden Gate Park.

1. Maintenance areas and buildings should be designed for optimal efficiency and minimum impact upon the park, including visual screening. Where possible, maintenance areas should be consolidated and reduced in size.
2. Field staff structures, storage sheds, and equipment shelters should not be intrusive in high use activity areas and should be adequately screened.



## OBJECTIVE II - LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION AND RENEWAL

### PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION AND RENEWAL OF THE PARK LANDSCAPE.

*"A park ... should be an agglomeration of hill and dale, meadow, lawn, wood and coppice, presenting a series of sylvan and pastoral views, calculated to banish all thoughts of urban objects, and lead the imagination to picture space beyond as a continued succession of rural scenes and incidents."*

- William Hammond Hall  
November 30, 1873

### POLICY A - PRESERVE THE DESIGN INTEGRITY OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Golden Gate Park has evolved from an original landscape design that provides unity and integrity. The original design intent shall be preserved.

1. All activities, features and facilities in Golden Gate Park should **respect the unique** design and character of the park.
2. The major design feature of Golden Gate Park and the framework within which all park activities occur is its **pastoral and sylvan landscape**. The integrity of the **pastoral and sylvan landscape** must be maintained and remain unaltered.
3. The existing form of **woodlands** and their relationship to meadow areas should be maintained. The size, the basic texture, and color of park **woodlands** should not be significantly altered nor should the size of meadows be reduced by the introduction of additional trees.
4. It should be recognized that the park, by design intent, is basically evergreen and is divided into two distinct areas. The park land east of Strawberry Hill was designed as a more finished park that includes a variety of intensively cultivated areas and developed facilities while the park land to the west was intended as woodland landscape with open meadows defined by stands of trees and enhanced by lakes. Large-scale introduction of deciduous or "flowering" trees in areas other than traditional horticultural gardens should be discouraged, particularly in the western park. The following is an excerpt from an 1886 report by William Hammond Hall to the Park Commissioners which explains his design concept for the park in his own words:

*"It was designed that the six hundred or more acres of the reservation including and lying west of Strawberry Hill, and its connecting ridge, should be simply treated as a woodland or forest, with all the hills and ridges more or less heavily timbered, and the valleys covered with lower-growing shrubs or field grasses; that the four hundred or less acres east of the hill and ridge should be treated as a more finished park, with its tree plantations in smaller masses or groups, principally on the higher grounds, and its several notable valleys occupied by such special features as a picnic ground; a garden - including a conservatory and semi-tropical exhibit; a children's quarter - including a dairy-house and play grounds; a recreation ground for sports of older people; a lawn, with lake and water terrace; a manor house and grounds, with concourses for carriages and pedestrians; and an open air concert auditorium. . ."*



5. It should be recognized that, because the park's landscape is **predominantly a human made** creation, its care and maintenance is highly labor intensive. Sufficient numbers of qualified personnel must be retained to ensure the park's continued preservation and maintenance.
6. No changes or alterations to any park feature should occur without consideration of the parkwide effects. Emphasis should only be given to activities which do not diminish open space.
7. The acreage and function of Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens should be preserved and protected.
8. The park's lakes and water features are important design elements. They also serve as important wildlife habitats. The lakes and water features should be managed to maintain water quality and levels, as well as wildlife habitat and recreational values.
9. Special Events must be strictly regulated to avoid damage to the park landscape.
10. Soil erosion has become a serious problem in some areas of the park because of overuse or misuse, lack of protection of tree roots on slopes, and the fragile nature of the sandy soil. The soil should be managed and protected to minimize erosion and ensure continued growth of the trees and other plants.

## **POLICY B - PRESERVE AND RENEW THE PARK'S FORESTS**

**Continue the implementation of a long-range plan for effective management of the park's forested areas:**

1. The Golden Gate Park forest management plan is based on the following objectives:
  - a. Develop and maintain on a continuous basis a comprehensive and appropriately detailed inventory of all wooded areas.
  - b. Maintain continuous reforestation and horticultural maintenance programs.
  - c. Wood-waste recycling and utilization programs.
2. The forest management program should focus on:
  - a. Continued rehabilitation of the windbreaks throughout the park.
  - b. Removal of hazardous, diseased and dying trees; replacement with appropriate tree species. (Some dead/dying trees should be retained for wildlife habitat and ecological purposes.)
  - c. Replacement and maintenance of park perimeter landscape screening, with consideration given to security and landscape design.
  - d. Maintaining the original design intent. For example: restoration of the forest canopy on the hills and ridges, and avoiding encroachment of trees in meadow areas.
  - e. The placement of dedicated trees should be appropriate to the landscape setting and avoid encroaching on meadow areas.
  - f. Restoration of specimen plantings that contribute to the distinctive character of the park's eastern landscape.
  - g. Control of invasive plant species.
  - h. Thinning of young trees, where appropriate, to improve forest growth.
3. Maintain the designated indigenous oak preserves for their natural and historical values as the only remaining indigenous woodlands in the park. Preserve existing oak trees in other areas as well.



- a. A specific management plan should be established for the oak preserves which are identified on the park land use map.
- b. Exotic and invasive understory vegetation should be removed in the oak preserves and replaced with native plants appropriate to oak woodlands.
- c. Oak woodlands should be perpetuated by the planting of acorns and oak seedlings.
- d. There are many other oak trees not within the oak preserves. These trees should be maintained and preserved within their respective landscape settings.

#### **POLICY C - WILDLIFE AND HABITAT**

Golden Gate Park provides important habitat for wildlife within San Francisco. Habitat values should be preserved and enhanced throughout the park. Designate and manage areas or zones within the park that are identified as having high natural resource values.

1. Manage, protect, and enhance the park's landscape for wildlife habitat and other natural values. Managing the landscape for these values should include preserving and enhancing food sources, nesting sites, and roosting sites; thinning and providing openings in the forest canopy; and maintaining understory vegetation.
2. Continue diversification of tree species with California native species such as oak, buckeye, madrone, bay laurel, and toyon, where appropriate.
3. Preserve selected dead trees for habitat value.
4. Maintain water quality and water levels in the park's lakes, marshes, and water features to preserve habitat values.
5. Designate areas within the park that have special resources or habitat values as natural resource areas. Natural resource areas should be managed to preserve and enhance the natural resource values. Control park uses in and near natural resource areas to preserve natural values.
6. Abandonment of cats is a continuing problem in the park. A collaborative effort involving the Recreation and Park Department, Animal Welfare and Control Commission, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), and other concerned groups, should coordinate efforts to discourage pet abandonment and establish a humane program to reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the number of feral cats in the park. This program may include rehabilitation and adoption of appropriate animals, and spaying/neutering and inoculation of feral animals. The goal of these efforts will be to reduce the feral cat populations in the park, coordinate and support cat population management efforts, and minimize impact on the park environment.

#### **POLICY D - PARK LAKES AND WATER FEATURES**

Maintain the important design and functional roles of the park's lakes and water features.

1. Existing lakes water features should be restored and maintained.
2. Lake levels should be stabilized.
3. Lake and water feature edges should be stabilized to prevent erosion.



4. **Water quality should be maintained to high standards. Runoff from landscape areas and roadways should be intercepted before draining into lakes.**
5. **The importance of lakes as wildlife habitats should be preserved and enhanced through proper management of the lakes and surrounding areas.**
6. **The landscapes surrounding lakes should be managed to promote the lake's wildlife habitat values.**

#### **POLICY E - WATER SUPPLY AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM**

Develop new irrigation water supplies and improve water distribution and application systems.

1. Provide consistent water pressures and volumes to irrigate the entire park.
2. **Improve and expand reservoirs to allow increased night watering.**
3. Improve and maintain the existing well system. Where feasible, restore inoperative wells.
4. **Plan for the future use of reclaimed water where appropriate in the park as mandated by the San Francisco reclaimed water ordinance. Analyze the impacts of reclaimed water on humans, wildlife, sensitive plants, irrigation lines, water quality in lakes and water features, and maintenance and cost considerations. Where possible provide a flexible system that can use reclaimed water, well water, or a mix of both.**
5. **Continue the installation of automatic irrigation systems where appropriate.**
6. **A new irrigation and water distribution system should include an automated monitoring and control system to increase irrigation efficiency and reduce operation costs.**

#### **POLICY F - SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES**

The principles of "sustainable landscape" should be applied to management practices, landscape design, plant selection, and irrigation methods. Sustainability implies balance and permanence: balance between renewable resources and the needs of the park; balance between maintaining the park in good health and the needs of the community. A sustainable park landscape will be healthy and in balance: biologically, economically, and socially.

#### **POLICY G - BISON Paddock**

The Bison in Golden Gate Park have an historic role that should be preserved. Bison were first placed in the park in 1891, when San Francisco began a captive breeding program to help prevent the extinction of North America's largest land mammal.

1. **The bison paddock should be renovated for continued maintenance of a Bison herd and meet requirements for zoological exhibits.**
2. **An adequate irrigation system should be established to permit maintenance of the paddock vegetation.**
3. **Interpretive signs and programs should inform visitors about the history of bison in Golden Gate Park, the ecological role bison, and the relationship and significance of bison to Native Americans.**



## OBJECTIVE III - PARK CIRCULATION

**CREATE AND MAINTAIN A PARKWIDE SYSTEM OF RECREATIONAL ROADWAYS, PATHWAYS, AND TRAILS. MINIMIZE MOTOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.**

Management of Golden Gate Park's circulation system should, as a primary goal, create and maintain a system of recreational roadways, **pathways and trails** where the order of priority should be to accommodate pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles for the purpose of enjoying the park.

**Access must be provided to all park activity areas, especially for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and families with young children. The challenge is to balance the need to provide adequate and convenient parking for those visitors driving to the park, with the desire to reduce vehicle traffic in the park to enhance the park experience.**

Efforts to reduce park automobile traffic and dependency on the private automobile as the primary mode of internal circulation, are desirable. Reducing park automobile traffic, particularly through traffic, will necessitate changes in established driving patterns within the park and adjoining neighborhoods.

Gradual, carefully planned and phased implementation, coordinated with the Department of **Parking and Traffic** and other agencies, will create a recreational roadway, pathway, and trail system that will improve the park visitor's enjoyment and safety, protect the park's environment, and reduce impacts on adjacent neighborhoods. **Measures taken to minimize vehicular traffic within the park should be in accord with the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of San Francisco. Environmental impacts will be examined prior to implementation. Enforcement of parking and traffic regulations is a critical component of a successful transportation management plan.**

A well-financed **park shuttle** system should be designed to effectively and conveniently convey park visitors to and within the park.

### POLICY A - ACCESSIBILITY

**Access must be provided to all park activity areas and programs, including access for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and families with young children. Accessibility must meet the requirements of all applicable codes and regulations for persons with disabilities.**

### POLICY B - PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

Provide an accessible pedestrian circulation system that promotes safe and enjoyable pedestrian activities.

1. Pedestrian enjoyment and safety may require separation of footpaths from roadways, grade separation of footpaths from roadways in heavily trafficked areas, and low speed limits for all vehicles.
2. **Trails and pathways that are designated as multiple use trails should be designed to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and other users.**
3. Pedestrian entrances to the park and to activity areas should be thoughtfully designed to invite use and promote safety.
4. **Pedestrian scaled night lighting should be considered along selected primary paths and where evening activities occur.**



## **POLICY C - BICYCLE CIRCULATION**

Provide for the safe and convenient use of the bicycle as a means of recreation and transportation to, within, and through Golden Gate Park. Provide continuity with the City bikeways plan.

1. A system of bikeways on roads and designated pathways that meets the needs of commuter and recreational bicyclists, and includes opportunities for bicyclists of all abilities should be provided.
2. Bicycle use should be encouraged through provision of secure bicycle parking facilities at activity centers, at large events, and at employee areas.
3. Standards for bikeways and bicycle parking facilities and services should be identified.
4. Bicycle planning efforts should be developed and evaluated in cooperation with interested groups, bicyclists, the Department of Parking and Traffic's Bicycle Coordinator, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, and the Department of Public Works.
5. Regulatory signs and a bikeway map should be posted at park entries to improve bicycling safety. Bicyclists should also be informed that on-road cycling is subject to vehicle code regulations.
6. Roads which are removed from motor vehicle circulation should be considered for bicycle use.

## **POLICY D - MOTOR VEHICLE CIRCULATION**

Create a park roadway system that allows internal park motor vehicle circulation and provides access to park facilities.

1. Ensure emergency and service vehicle access within and through the park.
2. Place informational and regulatory signs at all park vehicle entrances that encourage appropriate vehicle use in the park.
3. Enforcement measures should be identified and implemented with the cooperation of the Department of Parking and Traffic and the Police Department. If feasible, revenues from traffic citations should support the Recreation and Park Department, including the park shuttle system.
4. The park speed limit of 25 MPH should be enforced on all park roads.
5. Where feasible, motor vehicle roadways should be separated from other transportation modes.
6. No additional roads shall be built within the park. The park should be protected from encroachment by roadways from outside the park.
7. Where appropriate, curbs should be installed along roadways to protect adjacent landscape areas.

## **POLICY E - NON-PARK TRAFFIC**

Restrict non-park **motor** traffic to designated **throughways** in a manner that fully separates business, shopping, and commute traffic from the park experience.

1. **The Great Highway**, Crossover Drive, and Kezar Drive should be the basic components of a designated throughway system. Private vehicular access to the park proper should be **limited** from designated throughways.
2. Designated throughways should be screened by vegetation to minimize their visual impact.
3. Where park circulation systems must cross a designated throughway, grade separations should be **considered**.
4. Some provision should be made for **north-south through traffic** movement in the western half of the park. **Chain of Lakes Drive** should **remain** a minor roadway in keeping with the park's "naturalistic" character.
5. **East-west through traffic** should be discouraged and directed onto perimeter roads.

## **POLICY F - REMOVAL OF PARK ROADWAYS.**

Roadways that are not required for access to park facilities, and are not part of the designated throughway system, should be removed and replaced with appropriate landscaping and recreational pathways.

1. Access requirements **must** reflect public safety, park operations, internal transport, and **address Federal and State accessibility regulations**.
2. **Redesign intersections to remove excess pavement.**

## **POLICY G - WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY ROADWAY CLOSURES**

Selected weekend and holiday roadway closures to motor vehicles should be implemented and maintained. Closures should not impede access to the Music Concourse, particularly for transit vehicles, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and families with young children.

## **POLICY H - PARK SHUTTLE SYSTEM**

Provide for the implementation of a **shuttle** system to improve access and reduce traffic and congestion.

1. **An internal park shuttle** should be coordinated with MUNI services.
2. The route utilized for any park **shuttle** system should provide access to major facilities, features and activity areas.
3. Internal **shuttle** vehicles should be carefully selected to ensure that the system will be energy efficient, provide adequate space for picnic and sports equipment and be easily used by **persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and families with young children.**



## **POLICY I - PUBLIC TRANSIT**

Encourage the use of public transit for travel to Golden Gate Park and adjoining recreation areas.

1. Public transit improvements should be aimed at increasing city-wide **and region-wide** access to Golden Gate Park. **Service between MUNI and other transit providers should be coordinated to encourage transit use.** Service **must** be frequent and convenient. **Transit services should be encouraged to transport bicycles.**
2. Foster public transit programs that will encourage the use of parks other than Golden Gate Park that are now underutilized or relatively inaccessible.
3. **Develop transit incentive programs for park users and employees. These might include reduced entry fees, informational brochures, and subsidized Fast Passes for employees.**

## **POLICY J - PRIVATE TOUR VEHICLES**

Regulate private tour vehicle use of Golden Gate Park by designating in-park routes and restricting tour vehicle parking to specified areas.

1. Use of park roadways by tour **buses and other modes such as horse drawn carriages and pedicabs** should be regulated to ensure a balance between visitor service and protection of the park's landscape character.
2. Tour vehicle parking areas should be carefully sited to ensure that their impacts on the park environment are minimal. Landscaping should be employed to effectively screen these areas.
3. **Tour bus engines should be turned off when buses are parked.**

## **POLICY K - PARKING**

Parking for park visitors **should be sensitive to the park environment.** Discourage all-day commuter parking within Golden Gate Park.

1. **Regulatory measures** should be developed to discourage all-day commuter parking along park roadways. **Individual** parking meters as a means of control are not compatible with the park environment and should not be employed.
2. **Parking regulations** should consider impacts to pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and to park destinations.
3. **Employees of the Recreation and Park Department, and other facilities within the park should be encouraged to carpool, bicycle, or take public transit to work to reduce the impacts and parking congestion caused by employee vehicles.**

## **POLICY L - TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Develop and implement a **comprehensive** traffic safety and control program for all transportation modes. Measures should include, but not be limited to, improved striping, pavement messages, and signs.

1. **Traffic regulatory signs, pavement messages, and striping are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parking and Traffic. Signs, striping and pavement messages should be evaluated and renewed with adequate frequency to ensure safety. Where possible, traffic regulatory signs should be coordinated with other park signs.**



## **POLICY M - TRAFFIC GENERATORS**

Major traffic generators, within Golden Gate Park or adjacent to the park, preparing development or improvement plans or staging major activities **shall be required** to prepare a transportation analysis or environmental evaluation detailing possible transportation impacts to Golden Gate Park. Where appropriate, such development plans, improvement programs, or activities should provide a transportation management system that will prevent additional **motor vehicle** congestion, user conflicts, and all-day parking by non-recreational users within Golden Gate Park and encourage alternative modes of transportation.

1. Large events shall provide transportation management plans as required in the Recreation and Park Commission Permit and Reservation Policy. Transportation management plans shall be reviewed by the Department of Parking and Traffic, Traffic Engineering Division.
2. Implementation of transportation management plans should be monitored and evaluated.



## **OBJECTIVE IV - BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND MONUMENTS**

**MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AND PRESERVE THE OPEN SPACE OF GOLDEN GATE PARK. MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.**

### **POLICY A - NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Restrict construction of additional buildings, structures or monuments in Golden Gate Park. It should be recognized that additional structures in the park would disrupt the balance that presently exists between open space for general park use and special uses requiring buildings.

1. **New special use facilities** such as museums, recreation centers, and stadiums that are not essential to the mission of Golden Gate Park should be sited in areas other than the park.
2. **New statues or monuments** should be discouraged, as they detract from the park's design intent, and are generally not compatible with naturalistic parkland. Exceptions to this policy may be considered within the Music Concourse area for items from the museums' collections.

### **POLICY B - HISTORIC STRUCTURES**

Preserve notable park structures that have historic, architectural and aesthetic value.

Encourage restoration or reconstruction of other buildings and features that provide continuity with the past.

1. **An historic resources survey** should be conducted to inventory and evaluate the historic values of buildings, structures, monuments, and landscapes in accordance with established City, State and Federal criteria.
2. Special and immediate effort should be made to identify, organize, and preserve existing plans and plan documents related to the design and construction of all significant park features.

### **POLICY C - MODIFICATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS**

Assure that modification or replacement of existing park buildings is compatible with the landscape character and historic form of the park, and does not diminish existing open space.

1. **All park buildings** should be modified to meet the requirements of all applicable accessibility codes and regulations.
2. **Modification, replacement or reconstruction of existing buildings** for seismic or other structural upgrades, accessibility, or mechanical system improvements should, to the greatest extent feasible, not increase the building's footprint, height, or bulk.
3. Structural modifications resulting in expansion of an existing facility, including the California Academy of Science, the Asian Art Museum, and the M.H. deYoung Memorial Museum, should only be considered where:
  - a. There is a clearly demonstrated need for a defined service to the public that cannot be met by modifications within the existing building.

- b. Sufficient, detailed proof is available that alternative sites outside the park have been studied and that the proposed addition can be located only in the area in question.
- c. The effects on the park of the proposed addition have been fully assessed to ensure that expansion will not necessitate additional surface parking, access roads, or have deleterious effect on the park landscape.
- d. Sufficient effort will be expended to assure the very best architectural quality.
- e. Design plans for any proposed addition will include measures **and mitigations** that minimize visual impacts upon the park environment.

#### **POLICY D - REMOVAL OF BUILDINGS NOT NEEDED FOR PARK USES**

Provide for the phased removal or relocation of structures or facilities that are not essential for cultural, recreational, or operations/maintenance uses within the park.

- 1. Until the removal of inappropriate park structures or facilities occurs, they should be maintained only at levels consistent with existing use and safety. No additions or modifications that extend the current functions of the buildings should be permitted.
- 2. If a non-recreational structure can be successfully converted to an **essential park** use without incurring additional vehicular traffic, then reuse could be an alternative to removal.

#### **POLICY E - PARK MAINTENANCE STRUCTURES**

Maintenance structures should be designed and sited to minimize visual and other impacts on the park.

- 1. **Wherever feasible, maintenance structures should be consolidated within existing buildings.**
- 2. **Maintenance structures should be visually screened to the greatest extent possible. Where utilitarian structures such as storage containers are employed and visible to park users, architectural screen fences or planting should be used to mitigate their impacts on the park environment.**

#### **POLICY F - ENERGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

Encourage **energy and resource conservation** and recycling systems that would contribute to efficient management and operation of Golden Gate Park.

- 1. New structures, or substantially remodeled existing structures, should, where feasible, incorporate **energy and resource conservation systems.**



## **OBJECTIVE V - RECREATIONAL USES AND FACILITIES**

**ENSURE THAT RECREATIONAL USES OF GOLDEN GATE PARK ARE APPROPRIATE TO THE PARK ENVIRONMENT AND EXPERIENCE.**

Golden Gate Park hosts a wide variety of recreational uses throughout the park. This includes passive and unstructured recreational uses that can occur in numerous areas of the park such as sunbathing, frisbee, relaxation, and reading. There are also active and structured recreational uses that take place in specific locations designed or designated for uses such as tennis, baseball, soccer, model boat sailing, golf, and archery. Recreational uses, particularly new ones, should be evaluated for impacts to the park and to park users.

### **POLICY A - CHILDREN'S RECREATION AND SUPERVISION**

The Recreation and Park Department should **continue** to provide regular supervision and recreation for children, especially at the Mary B. Connolly Children's Playground.

### **POLICY B - EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES**

The existing equestrian facilities should be renovated to meet the requirements of various codes and regulations including: accessibility and other building codes, and animal welfare. The programs of the equestrian facility should serve a broad spectrum of users.

1. Designated equestrian trails should be adequately designed and maintained to provide a firm surface and to minimize erosion.

### **POLICY C - OFF-ROAD BICYCLE USE**

Off-road bicycle use should be restricted to paths and trails that are designated for such use. Paths and trails designated for bicycle use should be adequately designed to promote safe use by all users. Use restrictions should be communicated with appropriate signs, and education programs should be used to encourage responsible trail use and inform users about protecting park resources. Regulations should be effectively enforced.

### **POLICY D - SKATING**

Skating should be restricted to designated paths and areas within the park. Pathways and areas designated for skating should be designed for safety and to minimize conflicts with other park users. Use restrictions should be communicated with appropriate signs, and education programs should be used to encourage responsible use. Regulations should be effectively enforced.

## **OBJECTIVE VI - PARK MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY**

**ENSURE THAT PARK MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTS ADOPTED POLICY, PRESERVES THE PARK'S RESOURCES, AND OPERATES AND MAINTAINS THE PARK EFFICIENTLY.**

### **POLICY A - LANDSCAPE DESIGN OVERSIGHT**

A position with expertise in park planning and landscape design should be established within the Recreation and Park Department with the responsibility and authority, in conference with the Superintendent of Parks and the Park Planning office, to review and approve all landscape and architectural designs, modifications, structures, features, and maintenance procedures, as well as prepare landscape design plans, to ensure continuity of the park design and implementation of adopted policy.

### **POLICY B - PARK AMENITIES**

Improve and maintain park amenities and ensure adequate visitor service.

1. Restrooms, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, benches, **secure bicycle parking**, and telephones should be provided at convenient locations throughout the park and **properly maintained. Amenities must meet all applicable accessibility codes and regulations.**
2. These amenities should be consistent with the intensity of activity of the particular area and should not detract visually or physically from the environmental character of the park.

### **POLICY C - VISITOR INFORMATION**

**Information should be provided to visitors to enrich their park experience, to direct visitors to park features, and to communicate park regulations.**

1. Historic, environmental, educational, and general information about the park and activities therein should be made available to the resident and visitor through programs, tours, literature and exhibits.
2. A park visitor center(s) should be a conveniently located information source that provides exhibits to educate visitors about the parks uses, history, and resources; serves as a staging area for interpretive activities; and provides an opportunity for the sale of park related merchandise. If feasible, the visitor center(s) should use an existing building.
3. Outdoor advertisements of future or existing events are a visual intrusion in the park environment and should continue to be strictly regulated as defined by the Park Code. Agencies which desire to give notice of events should confine such activities to public media announcements, the Recreation and Park Department events calendar, or to an area within an existing building.
4. Visitor information must be available to persons with disabilities and meet the requirements of all applicable codes and regulations.



## **POLICY D - SIGNS**

**Signs to communicate information about the park and regulations regarding its use should be used effectively and efficiently. Minimize the number of signs needed.**

- 1. A park sign plan setting forth guidelines and standards should be prepared, adopted, and implemented.**
- 2. Informational, directional, and interpretive signs and maps should be standardized to optimize communication and sited effectively to avoid visual clutter and degradation of the park experience.**
- 3. General park information signs should be placed at all park entries with information about park uses, regulations, and restrictions.**

## **POLICY E - SPECIAL EVENTS**

Events that attract large numbers of participants or spectators should continue to be regulated under the Recreation and Park Commission policies for permit and reservation issuance to prevent degradation of the park's landscape and reduce impacts on adjoining neighborhoods. Large gatherings may well be accommodated in other San Francisco parks, balancing the citywide recreational program and alleviating wear and tear on Golden Gate Park. Ongoing use of park meadow areas and athletic fields should be carefully monitored so that measures may be taken to allow adequate turf and landscape recovery time.

- 1. Events should be reviewed to determine that they meet a standard of appropriateness, in accordance with the City Charter (Section 7.403) that stipulates that all permits and leases shall be issued only for recreational purposes.**
- 2. Locations of events within the park should be reviewed to ensure that the event is appropriate for that location. Consideration should be given to the land use and to potential damage to the areas. Carrying capacity should be determined for each area based on size and environmental sensitivity.**
- 3. Fees, deposits, and performance bonds paid by events to the Recreation and Park Department should be adequate to cover additional maintenance costs and repairs of any potential damage.**

## **POLICY F - CONCESSIONS**

Concessions are a cost effective way to provide some visitor services in Golden Gate Park. Concession activities should be consistent with adopted policies, the purposes and environment of the park, the City Charter (Section 7.403), and should continue to be regulated and closely supervised.

- 1. It is desirable for merchandising concessions that provide service on a long term and continuous basis to be located within an existing building.**
- 2. Mobile cart food concessions should meet visual design standards and permits should be reviewed with the Superintendent of Parks and park planning staff to ensure compliance with policy and design standards.**
- 3. All vendors should establish effective litter control and permanent concession facilities should provide an enclosed garbage disposal area.**
- 4. Lease agreements permitting the sale of merchandise should include the sale of items that relate to the park, its landscape, features, historic buildings, and recreational activities.**

## **POLICY G - GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

Ensure that gifts accepted for placement in Golden Gate Park will contribute to the historic character of the park and are compatible with the **park environment**.

1. Additional features tendered to the park should be carefully reviewed prior to acceptance to assure that they will not diminish the integrity of the basic design.
2. An endowment fund **shall be created** to allow prospective donors to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of **the park**.
3. **The Recreation and Park Department should work closely with a park cooperative association to develop additional funding opportunities.**
4. All gift proposals for Golden Gate Park should be in accordance with existing Recreation and Park Commission "Guidelines for Acceptance of Major Gifts" and the policies of the Golden Gate Park **Master Plan**.

## **POLICY H - RECYCLING**

Recyclable material generated within the park should be recycled within a designated area. Volunteer programs to remove litter from the park and to increase public awareness about recycling and the impact of litter on the park should be increased.

1. **Recycled materials should be considered for all appropriate uses within Golden Gate Park.**

## **POLICY I - PARK MAINTENANCE VEHICLES**

The use of alternative energy vehicles should be encouraged to reduce emissions within the park.

## **POLICY J - PARK SECURITY**

A sense of security is essential for park users to enjoy their park experience. The park should be, to the greatest extent possible, free of the problems of urban life. Providing a secure park environment should be a high priority.

1. Security systems and **park patrols shall** continue to be employed throughout the park. Mounted, **bicycle** and motorized patrols, and other high-visibility security measures should be **continued and expanded** to protect park visitors and **property**.
2. **Night Lighting** should be installed in areas receiving nighttime use. **Adequate roadway and pathway lighting should be provided to improve safety for pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists.** Park lighting should not detract visually or physically from the character of the park.
3. **Illegal activities including drug use and dealing, and camping shall not be tolerated in Golden Gate Park.** Efforts should be made to eliminate illegal activities through cooperation with community groups, the San Francisco Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Social Services, the Health Department, and the Department of Public Works. **Camping in the park damages the park landscape, creates litter and fire hazards, and reduces the perception of the park as a safe place to visit.**



## **POLICY K - ADJACENT URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Urban development adjacent to Golden Gate Park should be consistent with the unique qualities of the park. Development or design modifications within Golden Gate Park should not adversely affect the adjacent neighborhoods.

1. As the intensity of development increases, it should not visually intrude upon the park.

## **POLICY L - PETS**

Dogs and other pets must be kept under control of owners at all times. Leash laws and animal waste regulations should be enforced as defined in the Park Code and Health Code.

1. Maintenance of the dog training and dog run areas should consider safety and animal welfare.

Golden Gate Park's waterfront shoreline is that of a world class serving sports facility. It is in accordance with the recent Stadium operations policy adopted by the Recreation and Park Commission.

## **POLICY D - SRYBYNG ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**

The horticultural jewel of Golden Gate Park is Srybyng Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The arboretum is a world class facility and should be preserved and further enhanced by the park's management.

## **OBJECTIVE VII - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PROCESS**

### **FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN GUIDING THE FUTURE OF GOLDEN GATE PARK.**

#### **POLICY A - PARK POLICY AND PLANNING PROCESS**

Decisions involving changes to Golden Gate Park should be made within an open planning process that includes public participation. Decisions on park policies are made by the Recreation and Park Commission. The Commission's meetings are open and include public hearings. Regular planning activities that do not involve policy should include public participation through accessible public meetings and distribution of information.

#### **POLICY B - PARK COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

Support the activities of a park cooperative association, such as the Friends of Recreation and Parks, that will encourage broad community participation and increase opportunities for fundraising and public-private partnerships.

#### **POLICY C - VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Volunteer activities should be encouraged to do tasks and provide services that cannot be accomplished with park staff. The volunteer coordinator shall oversee and coordinate all volunteer activities. Volunteers should be given recognition for their efforts.

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The main Concourse is a large and distinctive civic space within the park that provides an appropriate setting for cultural activities and institutions.





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any existing form of wetlands and their relationship to meadow area should be maintained. The size, the basic texture, and color of park woodlands should not be significantly altered nor should the size of meadows be reduced by the introduction of additional trees.

It should be recognized that the park, by design intent, is basically evergreen and is divided into two distinct areas. The park land east of Strawberry Hill was designed as a more